

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 08  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023**

**RESEARCH ON LIVING WAGES**

**08. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:**

**Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government plans on undertaking research for improvised understanding of living wages to reach a theoretical estimate of living wage and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether Government is planning to shift from “minimum wage” to “living wage”, if so, the details of measures planned for the same; and**
- (c) whether Government has an estimate of the number of beneficiaries by such a shift, if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

**(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 8 FOR ANSWER ON 02.02.2023 REGARDING RESEARCH ON LIVING WAGES BY DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL.**

**(a) to (c): Provision of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for cost of living allowance as a component of minimum wages. Accordingly, the Central Government revises the cost of living allowance called as Variable Dearness Allowance (V.D.A) on basic rates of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, every six months effective from 1st April and 1st October every year on the basis of Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers to protect the minimum wages against inflation.**

**Recently the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, have been rationalized and subsumed under the Code on Wages, 2019 and the components of minimum wages stipulated therein also provide for cost of living allowance. Further, the Code makes minimum wages universally applicable across employments and thus moves ahead from restrictive applicability of minimum wages limited to scheduled employments as provided for under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.**

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